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Mississippi River/Gulf of Mexico Action Plan (4503F)
c/o U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W.
Washington, DC 20460

This is in response to the proposals to fight hypoxia in the Gulf of Mexico.


As a marketer of Nitrogen fertilizer I wouldn't want to see a mandatory significant cut in Nitrogen use. As a conservationist, I can understand the concern over the dead zone.

I am not a researcher, nor do I have data to support my opinion. I honestly think you need to limit or prohibit the use of fall applied Nitrogen. This is probably where most if not all of the problems take place.

Most researchers will agree that the Nitrogen loss usually happens in a very early spring from the fall applied product. By limiting or prohibiting the use of fall Nitrogen you can keep most parties concerned happy. Nitrogen can be used at normal levels, only applied during the spring, and early summer as the plant requires Nitrogen, and lessen the potential of leaching.

If you disagree with my opinion, at least agree that more research needs to be done on Fall vs. Spring applied Nitrogen. I look forward to you positive response to this issue.

Sincerely yours,


Henry W. Merschman
C.O.O.

hwm/ab